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LETTER DATED 17 FEBRUARY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF LEBANON TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, and further to our previous letters concerning Israeli incursions and Israeli practices in southern Lebanon, it saddens me to have to inform you that in the past two days Israel has escalated its hostile military operations against Lebanese civilians in their homes and villages and against Palestine refugees in their camps. Israeli State terrorism has reached the extent of planning and carrying out the assassination of Lebanese nationals and their families in Lebanese territory.

At 1.00 a.m. on 16 February 1992, Israeli aircraft and helicopters bombarded the Palestine refugee camps at Ein el-Hilweh, near Sidon, and Rashidieh, near Tyre, leaving four dead and nine wounded and destroying five homes.

At 1610 hours local time on Sunday, 16 February 1992, at the town of Tuffahta, two Israeli helicopters attacked the motorcade of Sheikh Abbas al-Musawi, Secretary-General of Hizbullah, as it was passing through the area. He, his wife and six-year-old son and his escorts were killed and many were wounded when pursued by Israeli helicopters.

Since our letter of 21 January 1992 (document S/23453), the forces of the Israeli occupation have been continuing to bombard southern villages with artillery, tanks and machine-guns from their positions inside the occupied zone. Israel Navy craft have also been patrolling the southern coast and directing their fire at the Ein el-Hilweh and Rashidieh camps, and Israeli war-planes have been constantly overflying Lebanese territory at various altitudes, particularly in the south.

The Lebanese Government, in condemning and deprecating the blatant Israeli incursions and Israeli practices against Lebanon's sovereignty and the security of its citizens and residents, calls the attention of the international community to the grave situation arising out of the continued Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the resolutions of its organs and of the principles of international law, thereby posing a threat to international peace and security.

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Given the gravity of the situation, the Lebanese Government has decided to request an urgent meeting of the Security Council to consider the dangerous Israeli incursions and to put a definitive end to them by ending the Israeli occupation, in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and subsequent resolutions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Khalil MAKKAWI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative